

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) for use when putting down floor elements-(8), primarily with groove and tongue joints-(4, 6), typically parquet flooring elements, which comprises a cushion (10) and a striking tool-(12), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cushion (10) is a flat, plane work piece comprising an upper side (14) and a lower side-(16), a first rectilinear resting long side (18) and a second striking long side (20) extending in parallel with said first side-(18), and two relatively short end faces (22, 24) extending in parallel and substantially perpendicular to the long sides-(18, 20), the upper side (14) comprising an upward projecting first rod-shaped part (26) comprising a catching area or a handle-(34), from which the striking tool (12) can be activated for generating a directional kinetic energy (stroke effect), which is transferred to the resting long side (18) or the end faces (22, 24) via the cushion (10).

2. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the upper free end (28) of the upward projecting first rod-shaped part (26) from the upper side (14) is supported via a hinged joint (30) in a pendulous second rod-shaped part-(32), whose length corresponds substantially to the length of the first rod-shaped part-(26), the first and the second rod-shaped part-(26, 32), respectively, comprising a catching area or a handle (34, 34'), a striking tool (12) being fixed to the free end (36) of the second rod-shaped part (32), said striking tool (12) being pivotally at least across the second striking long side (20) for striking against said long side-(20).

3. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~claim 1 or 2, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the end faces (22, 24) form one side of sections (40, 42) projecting from the second striking long side (20) at either end of the cushion, said sections (40, 42) comprising opposite faces (44, 46) extending in parallel with the end faces-(22, 24), the hinged joint (30) being pivotally supported on the upper free end (28) of the first rod-shaped part-(26), the striking tool (12) at the end (36) of the second rod-shaped part (32) further becoming pivotally to striking against the opposite faces (44, 46) of the sections-(40, 42).

4. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 3, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the hinged joint (30) is made as a ball joint or a flexible stalk connection, to make the second rod-shaped part pivotally in all directions.

NEW APPLICATION
Docket No.: 36731-000041/US

5. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the cushion (10) comprises a mechanical striking tool, driven by an energy source, for example an external current source, a pressure air or hydraulic energy source, a rechargeable battery or a pressure air cartridge, and activated from an operating panel at the handle or catching area and meant for generating a directional kinetic energy (stroke effect), which is transferred to the resting long side (18) or the end faces (22, 24) by the cushion.

6. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least in the area of the end faces (22, 24) the tool comprises a crosswise extending section (48) relative to the vertical plan (50) of the resting long side (18), the side (52) of said section (48) facing the lower side (16) of the cushion forms a supporting face, on which the tool (2) is supported on the upward face (54) of a relevant floor element (8), or a floor element (8) that has already been put down, with the resting long side (18) completely or partly resting on the side edge (56) of the floor element.

7. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sections (48) are supported in upright elements/parts (64) projecting from the upper side (14) of the cushion (10).

8. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~claim 6 or 7, characterised in that~~ claim 6, wherein the sections (48) are formed by supporting rollers (60), whose shafts (62) are supported in upright elements/parts (64) projecting from the upper side (14) of the cushion (10).

9. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~claim 6, 7 or 8, characterised in that~~ claim 6, wherein the distance between the lower side (16) of the cushion (10) and the side (52) of the section (48) facing the lower side (16) is adjustable.

10. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the section (48) is formed by a longitudinal recess in the resting long side (18).

11. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 10, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the sides of the striking tool, which, during use, are brought to striking against the striking long side of the cushion, and possibly the facing side

edges of the projecting sections at the ends of the cushion, are made of a noise reducing material or coated with such a material.

12. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 11,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the handles or catching areas (34, 34) are formed by strap-shaped handles, which are fixed on the sides facing away, of the first rod-shaped part (26) and the second rod-shaped part (32), respectively.

13. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 4 or 6 to 11,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the catching area (34) on the first rod-shaped part (26) is made by a parallel displacement, and that the catching area (34') on the second rod-shaped part (32) is made by a parallel displacement, which is substantially identical, but laterally reversed in relation to the parallel displacement on the first rod-shaped part (26).

14. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 13,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the first rod-shaped part (26) is detachably fixed to the upper side (14) of the cushion (10).

15. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 4 or 6 to 14,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the striking tool (12) is detachably fixed to the free end (36) of the second rod-shaped part (32).

16. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 4 or 6 to 15,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the hinged joint (30) is detachably fixed to the first rod-shaped part (26) and possibly detachably fixed to the second rod-shaped part (32).

17. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 16,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the first rod-shaped part (26) and the second rod-shaped part (32) are axially telescopic, and fixable in at least the completely extended and the completely retracted positions.

18. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 17,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least at one of the end faces (22, 24), the cushion (10) comprises a fixed fitting (70), which is displaceable and lockable in an active extreme

NEW APPLICATION
Docket No.: 36731-000041/US

position, in which the lower end (72) projects somewhat below from the lower side (46) of the cushion, and a passive extreme position, in which the lower end (72) of the fitting is positioned in a level over the upper side (14) of the cushion (10), respectively.

19. (Currently Amended) Tool (2) according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 18,~~
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the fitting (70) is detachably fixed to the cushion (10).